

Zn

<0.03

balance Al of commercial purity; and

(b) extruding a billet taken from said population of billets.

Az --15. A method as claimed in claim 14, including the step of aging the extruded section by heating at 150° - 200°C for a time to develop peak strength.

--16. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the extruded section is etched to develop a matte surface and then anodised.--

Cancel claims 1 - 8 inclusive.

R E M A R K S

A cross reference to applicants' parent application, of which the present application is a continuation, has been added at the top of p. 1 of the specification as required by 37 C.F.R. §1.78. Claims 1 - 8 have been replaced with claims 9 - 16, which are respectively identical to claims 17 - 24 presented by Amendment, and subsequently cancelled without prejudice, to expedite prosecution, in the aforesaid parent application.

The parent application is the U.S. national stage of an international (PCT) application which was filed April 15, 1997, with claims 1 - 7, and was amended during the international stage on March 11, 1998, to add claim 8. Thus, the parent application contained claims numbered 1 through 8 when it entered the U.S. national stage. The amendment made during the international stage was acknowledged in applicants' executed Declaration in the parent U.S. national stage application. A copy of the Amended Sheet adding claim 8 is attached to the photocopy of the parent application which is being filed concurrently herewith to constitute the present continuation application. Therefore, it is

believed that the continuation application is being filed with claims numbered 1 - 8 (all being cancelled and replaced by this concurrently filed Preliminary Amendment), and that the first of the new claims being added herein should be numbered claim 9.

Entry of the Preliminary Amendment is courteously requested.

Respectfully,

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U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE